The Colonnade

Memorial Edition

January 17, 1927
Georgia State College for Women
Dedication

In behalf of all who knew him as a leader, teacher, friend, we affectionately dedicate this issue of

The Colonnade

to the Memory of Dr. Parks, remembering that he lived as he taught us:

"To look up and not down,
To look forward and not back,
To look out and not in, and
To lend a hand."

—The Staff.

Dr. Marvin M. Parks
G. S. C. W's. Beloved Former President
His Life

Dr. Murvin McIntyre Parks, a great and magnetic personality, and one who was destined to be one of the South's greatest educators was born in Marietta, Georgia, in 1872.

Dr. Parks was interested in education from the beginning of his college career. He was first honor graduate at Emory University in 1892. Then he took a post graduate course at the University of Chicago in 1895 and Harvard University in 1896. Dr. Parks served as professor in Androw and Wesleyan Colleges, and in 1915 the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws was conferred upon him by the University of Georgia.

In 1903 he began his great work at the Georgia State College for Women, then known as G. N. & L. C. Here he worked until his late death with the exception of only two brief periods of time. One of these was spent on a trip around the world, an account of which was published in "Letters Around the World" in the Atlanta Journal during 1909-10. The other period was spent as State Superintendent of Schools of Georgia. This position he accepted on leave of absence from G. S. C. W. for the purpose of putting over certain definite standards for the educational system of the State.

It is on the G. S. C. W. Campus he gave his greatest contribution to the State of Georgia, as he daily influenced the lives of thousands of young girls with the ideals and standards which shone out in his magnetic personality. Here he worked with undaunted courage; constructing buildings, raising the curriculum, and building a wonderful spirit, which cannot be surpassed on any campus, until today G. S. C. W. stands out as the largest woman's college in the State.

The poet says "It matters not how long we live, but how." Every life has an echo which carries on after that life has ceased. Dr. Parks' echo is one which reaches throughout the entire state, and causes girls, teachers, mothers to bow their heads in a spirit of thankfulness and say, "The world is better for his having lived in it. I am nobler for having known him." These words are not doubted by any one who has ever known him, because all know he was truly great, for true greatness, true nobleness, consists of self-forgetfulness, self-sacrifice, disregard of personal pleasure, personal indulgence, personal advantage, because some one else needs your help. These are the ideals Dr. Parks stood for. His daily thoughts and plans were for others, never shirking a duty, always standing ready, waiting to serve for the educational needs of Georgia.

Through unswerving devotion toward duty, his daily chapel talks and everyday contacts with the girls there has been embedded in every heart on the campus the true meaning of integrity, consistency, cooperation, and truth. He stood for practicality in all things, and he has left in the minds of those who have ever attended G. S. C. W. this lesson: "An educated person is one who knows how to make a tool of every faculty—how to open it, how to keep it sharp, and how to apply it to all practical purposes."

Dr. Parks still lives. On the G. S. C. W. Campus he lives. Throughout Georgia he lives. He has only gone away in body for a time, truly he still lives for, "To live in the hearts we leave behind is not to die."

His Ideals

If gradually working out his plans for the college to which he gave his life, Dr. Parks had for his slogan, not a "Greater G. S. C.," but a "Better G. S. C." Taking "Service" as the keynote of his building, he brought into being an educational system endowed with a spirit embodying the ideals and standards of the highest type of life, and a curriculum that was both cultural and practical.

Dr. Parks believed democracy should be the basis of all organization and is the foundation of a greater degree of development and civilization; that health, character, and personality are the most vital fundamentals of life; that there are interests, ambitions, and spheres of usefulness peculiar to women. So believing he gave to the fullest of himself in developing an institution that would reach as many girls as possible, girls who, in some instances, would not otherwise have attended college, and instill in them that depth of culture and refinement, those principles and truths that would fit each one to take her place in any walk of life as a happy, useful, well-informed member.

He spent his energy, he lent his strength to the task. Seeking, finding; selecting, discarding; improving, introducing always the question presented itself to him, "Which is the best method; what is best to accomplish the greatest results for the girls of the college?"

His was an ideal college, but not the fanciful, air-castle type; an ideal that he was making into a practical reality.

"Greater love hath no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friend." What a lover of Georgia! What a friend of Georgia girls!
His Achievements

The greatness of our lost leader, Dr. Parks, lay not in a single quality or power, but in a combination of qualities, each of which he possessed and had developed in an extraordinary degree.

He was a splendid organizer and harmonizer. Each department of the institution to which he gave his life, was so organized that it functioned properly in itself, and at the same time was so correlated and harmonized with every other department that the whole college worked like a perfect machine, without the highest economy and efficiency of every part.

He was a great leader. By his wisdom and integrity, his earnest efforts to give justice and opportunity to all, he was able to secure willing co-operation among the faculty and student body for carrying out his plans and purposes for the College.

He was unexcelled as a financier and business manager. Through his skill and management he was able to obtain almost double value for every dollar expended, and as a result of his genius and economy, the per capita cost of education in this College is less than that of any other institution in the State, and in the South.

He was a remarkable architect and builder. The group of buildings on the campus, constructed from his plans and under his direction, attest his skill and constitute a monument to his memory. In their beauty, their convenience, their equipment, their arrangement, they reveal his vision of the varied aims and purposes of a college for women.

He was finally, and pre-eminently, a spiritual leader. Day by day he taught the religion of Jesus, that his influence permeated every part of the college life.

It seems to me that his greatest work was with the student body. He was able to touch the hidden springs within the human spirit, setting in motion those forces of growth and development which resulted in the unfolding of the powers, personality, and character of the students. This work created a fine spirit of corps in the student body, a healthy public opinion, high ideals, and noble purposes. In this pure college atmosphere, a student was stimulated to unfold her latent powers and grow into the finest woman that she was capable of being.

This influence is not confined to the College. The culture, refinement, and optimism, and desire to serve one's fellowmen acquired here in College has passed out into every part of the State and into surrounding states and will live and work and transform the lives of others.

This is the spiritual Georgia State College for Women that Dr. Parks has inaugurated. — J. L. Beeson.

It was my great privilege for eighteen years to work with constantly increasing intimacy with Dr. Parks.

During that time I came in contact with many of the college problems with which he had to deal. Problems touching the organization and conduct of the college in relation to student government, educational policies, faculty organization, as well as many of the details of business administration. Questions of interrelationship of this college to other educational institutions and organizations of this state and the southeast were constantly met, discussed, and acted upon.

The method of handling all of these matters by our beloved friend and leader was a constant revelation to me. His fairness, his sense of justice and balance, his consecration to his duty in face of obstacles, and his appreciation of friendship and association were unusual.

Dr. Parks' influence over the lives of thousands of young women, and on the educational policies of the State and his section, made him in the opinion of many, one of the foremost educators and administrators in the South.

Dr. Parks left with us a monument in the physical plant of the college, unequalled from the standpoint of beauty, convenience, and economy throughout the nation.

He left an even more enduring and beautiful monument in the lives of the thousands who came in contact with him as students and as associates. A monument to his educational foresight is to be found in his influence upon the educational thought and policies of his generation. Our President was a prime mover in many advances in educational thought—he was one of the first and most influential in stimulating interest in agricultural education in this state.

He was one of the few associated with Governor Terrell in starting the Agricultural District Schools and fostering the Agricultural College at Athens, at a time when Agricultural instruction was fighting for its very life in the State.

Our beloved friend was one of the earliest in the nation to foster and back education in home economics, health, and physical education. His influence and inspiration as State Superintendent of Education has been widely felt among those interested in building a powerful, prosperous, educated, Christian state.

In spite of many and varied duties, the constant drain upon his physical resources, and many disappointments, he still kept his optimism, love of young life, and belief in the power and eventual success of the right. He was quiet, unassuming and appreciative.

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THE COLONNADE

DEAN SCOTT PAYS TRIBUTE TO DR. PARKS

(Continued from page five)

and we can say with Bishop Candler—

"Another great, consecrated, lovable, public

servant has lived—placed his impress upon

his generation—and passed on to his re-

ward."

It left to the rest of us to carry on his life work

and to pledge ourselves anew to his great mission to

which he devoted his life, energy and great talents.

—Edwin Hobart Scott.

Georgia bows in grief at the death of Dr. Marvin

Parks. He was so useful an educator, so upright as a

man, so devoted as a friend to the rank and file that his

passing leaves a sad breach in the service of the com-

monwealth, and in its heart an aching sense of loneli-

ness.

In nothing else did his worth appear more signifi-

cantly than in this that he was ever content to remain an edu-

cator. A lesser spirit would have abandoned that quiet

yet incomparably potent way of well doing for the call

that came so often to him from politics, from business

and from other roots of the world’s ambition, in any

of which he would have shone. His personality would

have made him popular on the hustings; his resource-

fulness would have been a tower of strength to an in-

dustrial or financial institution. But these avenues to

fame and to riches he put behind him, choosing the

rarer, the lonelier, the more splendid path of those who

quicken their country’s mind and lift up its hearts.

For twenty-three years he was president of the Geor-

gia State College for Women. The legions of lives that

he touched to finer issues are an immortal part of the

state’s treasure and of his own fair fame. The exam-

ple of masterly management and of constructive econo-

omy which his administration presented has become an

ideal of official conduct. The plea that he has made for

democracy in schools and for things vital and prac-

tical in education at a time when the current bore

mysteriously the other way, were those of a pioneer who had

not only the courage of conviction, but the power of
discernment and the patience of creative faith. For a

brief term he accepted appointment as state superin-

tendent of education that he might work the more ef-

fectively in behalf of the common schools and for ad-

vancement of the common people. In two short

years of his career were given to the young womanhood

of Georgia, and to teaching eternal values.

Better work no man could have done, truer affection

none could have shown, a nobler memory none could

have bequeathed.—Atlanta Journal.

THE COLONNADE

Many Pay Tribute To Him

MANY PAY TRIBUTE TO HIM

The most of us might dream of wonderful things;

many of us might feel inspired to do wonderful things:

a few of us might be able to bring about one wonder-

ful thing; but to find one who had the vision, possess-

ed the inspiration and the ability to bring to pass

many wonderful things is but little short of a miracle.

Such a one was Dr. M. M. Parks. But not here did the mir-

acle stop—he also inspired others to try to do won-

derful things.

To become a member of the faculty of the State

College for Women was a compliment, for Dr. Parks

was ever desirous of obtaining the best recommenda-

tions. To remain a member of that faculty was a

greater compliment still—for he approved of those

who substituted service for self. But he did not ex-

pect that which he did not give himself.

As an executive officer Dr. Parks was a constant

source of inspiration. With every one with whom he

came in contact, he left the desire to improve, from the
day laborer in the yard who got a word of praise
done, to the senior student who received a

quiet "Thank you" because of some special work com-

pleted.

Satisfaction with one’s work is likely to be the end

of the growth of that work, and the thing within us

that says “I can do better next time” is a saving grace.

Dr. Parks regarded faculty of being able to

assume this feeling at the same time he was expressing

his appreciation of some work well done. No member

of his faculty ever let his office except with a renewed
determination to be of more service to the college.

Wishing them all to be happy and contented, he did

not hesitate to say that it was the first duty of the pres-

ident and the faculty to think of what was best for

the school. This he practiced daily.

It was a happy life he led, and a happy life. No one

could know how often he worked far into the night.

Then—bright and early the next morning he was up—
a visit here—a direction there—a plan yonder. It was a

wonder to his friends how he did so much and did it all so well—and yet not

break under the strain. There is an answer to this—

he loved his work with an all-absorbing love. It was

a game. A splendid game, and every day he found

some new interest and more beauty in this work. His

entrance into the wholesome pleasures enjoyed by the

girls, and his delight in providing some special treat for

them gave as much joy to those around him as the treat

itself.

This constant example, his unswerving devotion to

those high ideals which he carried as a cross before him,

made possible that beautiful spirit that lends fragrance

to the atmosphere of this college, and did much to

bring about its almost unheard of success.

As a citizen of Dr. Park’s home town; as a member

of his faculty for 20 years, and as one whom he has

inspired time and time again, I say with a sorrowful

heart that this is a sad, sad day for Georgia; a grief-

stricken day for the little city of Milledgeville; a heart-

breaking day for the faculty and students of the Geor-

gia State College for Women.

—Mrs. Nelle Womack Hines (Atlanta Journal)

How futile is my attempt to express the tribute of

love and appreciation that is found in the hearts of

thousands of girls, enshrined around the memory of the

life and great personality of Dr. Parks. How each one

of us seeks for words that will say differently, that we

loved him, to convey the deep sentiment of our hearts

for the beauty of his life.

We knew and loved him best, not as the great ex-

ecutive, although this characteristic was outstanding;

not even as the great material builder and financier

that he proved himself so nobly to be. But he will

live on in our hearts and lives, as the great friend

and counselor who ever helped us to find and develop

our best; as that great builder of character and personality

that will continue to express his wonderful influence

through us, in acts of real service, in the years to come.

Those ideals that he so lived and loved have come to

be a part of the lives of so many which will ever form

living monuments to the memory of him whose life

was such a blessing to all who knew him. Each one

of us even now, responds to the call that comes from

the heart of him to us.

"Continue to carry on the work of the

Master Builder in the spirit of love and sin-

cerity.”

—Mary Moss.

"For four years I had the honor of being his pasto-

r, and in those years I was in the most intimate companionship with him

throughout that entire period. In all that time he grew

upon me as an original thinker in the field of educa-

tion, as a genius in educational administration, and

as a broadminded Christian citizen whose heart embraced

in an especial manner the needier elements of our cit-

izens. Also during that period Dr. Parks developed

steadily as a church man, being an official member of
While seeking service both in the material structures he erected as well as the characters he strove to develop, he never lost sight of beauty and ornament. Plain lines, and ornate Corinthian columns characterize his buildings, and the absence of superficially, snobbish and everything that is base, insincere or undemocratic was sought for in his spiritual structures.

As the beautiful columns he loved so well take a prominent place in every building he constructed and draw attention upward to their attractive capitals, his life will be ever an inspiration to us and will direct our attention to higher and nobler living and to that place to which he has gone to enjoy the beauties and glories of a "city with buildings not made with hands."

—O. A. Thaxton.
appreciation of his many and sterling virtues, his years of self-sacrificing and unremiring labors in the interest of education; a grief which we in common with the whole State, experience in the untimely loss of a friend, a guide and a mentor. Therefore

Resolved: That it is with feelings of the deepest grief and shock that we experience the loss of Dr. Parks. He was one of the foremost educators of the South and indeed of the nation, progressive yet never radical in his views. He had a rare blending in the qualities of scholarship, efficiency, and magnetic personality. He was possessed of a fine courage, knowing no fear but that of God. He taught and lived the principles of the Christ he loved. He was an active and firm in emergencies, a very rock and pillar of strength in times of stress and trouble. He followed the example of high ideals, nobly planned, and painstakingly executed. Through his eyes the daughters of the college saw his vision of nobler womanhood and development of personality; and in their academic and personal striving their highest goal of achievement was to measure up to his standards. His great spirit animated every nook of the college he loved, and though he is with us no more his spirit still marches on. His influence is deathless and burns an eternal flame to lighten our path.

Resolved: That we tender the bereaved widow and family our deepest sympathies under this their irreparable loss, of a noble husband and father; who died as a soldier in God's battles should, in the midst of his work and with "his armor on," and whose memory will always be green in the hearts of th e friends who knew, respected, and loved him.

Resolved also: That these resolutions be entered upon the minutes of the alumnae and that copies be furnished to the family of the deceased, the college, and to the papers of the State with a request that they publish the same.

Respectfully submitted,
Mrs. Frances B. Binion, Chairman; Katherine K. Scott, Ruth Stone, William Thomas Bone, Gertrude H. Hutchins, Kate Tharsh, Marie Whitheld, Olive Bell Davis, Edith Carr Tigner, Eloise Rose Turner, Rebecca Little McKinsey, Mary A. Brooks.

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RALPH SIMMERSO
BUCK DEALER
MILLEDGEVILLE, GA.

THE COLONNADE PAGE ELEVEN

THE COLONNADE PAGE TEN

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RALPH SIMMERSO
BUCK DEALER
MILLEDGEVILLE, GA.

Talk about appreciation, but there is no one so filled with this emotion as ourselves. We have met one of the G. S. C. W. girls (The very nice girl that collects for this space) and we would be very glad to meet the other 999. Phone orders delivered instantly.

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